

has excelled at now for 49 years in 139 countries through 7,671 volunteers.

On the other side of town, several members of our delegation visited a start-up small business, the brainchild of retiree and Peace Corps volunteer Barbara Eberhart, whose second career is dedicated to empowering the women of Morocco.

The group visited a fabric and embroidery shop developed by a community of Berber women aided by a micro-credit loan and Barbara's guidance and unbounded energy. These women, unable to read or write and essentially marginalized in Moroccan society, have formed a cooperative where they create fine embroidered goods and sell them in local markets. Their small business not only provides desperately needed income, but gives these women a stronger sense of themselves, their community and hope for their future and that of their children.

With Peace Corps volunteers coming from all backgrounds, ages and various stages of life, this program is as diverse as our country. The local citizen collaboration inherent in all Peace Corps work helps build enduring relationships between the United States and Peace Corps partner countries.

The Peace Corps invests time and talent in other countries, but it pays dividends back here in the United States as well. Those who are taught or helped by Peace Corps volunteers are likely to have more favorable opinions of the United States. More than that, many of the volunteers themselves are inspired to public service upon their return to this country, some becoming Governors and Members of Congress, including our own colleague and fellow Helsinki Commissioner, Senator DODD of Connecticut.

I left Aitourir thinking Kate was the exemplary Peace Corps volunteer with her welcoming smile, passion for service and genuine love for the Moroccan people. But aware of the success of so many other Peace Corps programs around the world, I know Kate is one of many volunteers—all of whom would have left as great an impression.

The Peace Corps is a program that works. Volunteers year in and year out continue to fulfill the Peace Corps mission of bringing training and education to interested countries and strengthening understanding between Americans and our neighbors in the global community. Congratulations to the Peace Corps for 49 remarkable years. I look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING VISTA ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to speak on a resolution I have cosigned celebrating Volunteers In Service To America, or VISTA, on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

This resolution will demonstrate the great appreciation this country has for its volunteers, specifically honoring

the 45th anniversary of the VISTA Program.

Last year nearly 50 VISTA volunteers provided service in Alaska. These citizens are vital to fighting poverty in our State. The success of this program is evident in the programs it has left behind such as Head Start, job training plans, and credit unions. From its beginnings in 1965 to today, VISTA has dedicated hard work, time, and innovation to lift Americans all over the country out of poverty.

While the mission to fight against poverty has a long history, VISTA has continued to adapt to various localities and challenges to provide new and inspired solutions. Alaska boasts many past and present VISTA volunteers. Many of them have become prominent in Alaska's public and private sectors.

In Alaska, John Shively came to the state with VISTA from New York State with the intention of staying for 1 year. He became involved in local government in Alaska and was involved in the Native lands settlements of early statehood. He later became the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, overseeing more than 80 million acres of State land. He has also been a regent for the University of Alaska, and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce was proud to award John Shively the title "Outstanding Alaskan of the Year" in 2009.

Willie Hensley is an Alaska Native and one of the many successful residents of Alaska. He was a VISTA volunteer and went on to serve in the Alaska State Legislature. He founded the NANA Native Corporation after working hard to ensure equitable settlement of Alaska Native land claims. He is one of the founding members of the Alaska Federation of Natives and is a well known author.

John Shively and Willie Hensley are just two examples of the thousands of VISTA volunteers who have served Alaska and her people. VISTA is a program serving all Americans with the focus on lifting poor Americans out of poverty so their futures can be as bright as the northern lights. VISTA's 45 years of service to the country has made a difference in so many lives, in Alaska and across the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PROTHRO HEBERT

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my constituent, Sylvia Prothro Hebert, who has been selected as a 2009 Great Comebacks Recipient for the West Region. This program honors individuals who are living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgeries, procedures that reconstruct bowel and bladder function through the use of a specially fitted medical prosthesis. Sylvia is one of over 700,000 Americans, from young children to senior citizens, who have an

ostomy. The Great Comeback Awards celebrate the spirit and courage with which a patient embraces life after ostomy surgery. Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Awardees are Americans who live life to the fullest despite the daily challenges presented by their respective conditions.

At age 9, Sylvia was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. She managed her symptoms with medication, but experienced constant flare-ups during college. At age 21, her intestines were punctured during a colonoscopy and she underwent ostomy surgery. Following this surgery, Sylvia was emotionally distraught; however, she entered counseling and learned how to cope with her stoma. Sylvia has since triumphed over her illness, and achieved her dream of becoming a flight attendant. By her records, she's the first Delta SkyTeam flight attendant with an ileostomy. Additionally, Sylvia joined the Delta Ski and Snowboard team and has earned ribbons in many competitions. Sylvia has also completed two half-marathons and a triathlon.

Today, Sylvia lives in Park City, UT, with her husband Paul and their children, Reese, Garrett, and Renee. I commend Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Regional Award Recipients. Their personal stories are inspirational and will raise awareness about the great comebacks being made by those living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery. •

REMEMBERING HARRY AGGANIS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there is a mid-winter tradition throughout New England and across my home State of Maine—talking baseball. Not just any baseball, of course, but Boston Red Sox baseball.

These discussions, whether they take place around the kitchen wood stove or the office water cooler, range from the team's storied history to the prospects for the upcoming season. The heroes of the past, Yastrzemski, Williams, and so many more, are recalled, as are the more recent stars, such as Schilling and Ramirez.

At times, fans reminisce about a young man who, although his career was cut tragically short, continues to inspire through his athleticism, competitive spirit, and generosity. His name was Aristotle George Agganis. His friends called him Harry. He will always be remembered as the Golden Greek.

Harry Agganis was born in Lynn, MA, in 1929. Although he is known as a baseball player, he first made his mark in football as a star quarterback for Boston University. As a sophomore in 1949 he set a school record for touchdown passes. He left school in 1950 to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

When he completed his service to our nation, he returned to college, setting a school record for passing yards, winning the Bulger Lowe Award as New